



Conclave 2025 | Branson MO

**You Are Invited!**

**Now taking reservations for the May 2025**

## ***Smokies to the Ozarks Tour***

**including Conclave 2025**

**[www.thesmokytour.com](http://www.thesmokytour.com) *for great photos and a detailed itinerary***

- *Limited to the first 28 cars to sign up (plus a few BJ9's).*

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The following information will hopefully answer many of your questions about our Tour, but please don't hesitate to contact me.

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## **Our Tour Objectives**

1. To drive the **most interesting and scenic roads** in Tennessee, North Carolina and Kentucky.

Approximately 1500 miles of fine backcountry roads and parkways. No interstate freeways! Five of the six “*best roads in the South*”, including the infamous ***Tail of the Dragon*** (both ways!).

2. To sample and enjoy the **best and most distinctive foods** the South has to offer. Five kinds of BBQ! Catfish, Hush Puppies and all the other “comfort foods” the region is famous for.

And don’t forget the bourbon!

3. To have **plenty of time to socialize** with friends old and new. To that end, all hotels have been carefully curated to be characteristic of the region. Examples are **The Origin Hotel** in Lexington and **The Restoration Hotel** in Asheville.

Check them out!

## OUR ITINERARY

- **NASHVILLE, TN** (3 nights): Welcome reception, General Jackson Dinner Cruise, the Grand Old Opry (optional), Lane Motor Museum, Duncan JDM Imports, Opry Mills Shopping Mall, Bavarian Beerhaus Dinner, Scenic driving tours to include Honky Tonk Row, Vanderbilt and Belmont campuses, the Parthenon, Belle Meade mansions and miles of great countryside. The Inn at Opryland Hotel.  
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- **CHATTANOOGA, TN** (1 night): Jack Daniels Distillery Tour, Southern style lunch at Miss Mary Bobo's in Lynchburg, Lookout Mountain, Ruby Falls (optional). All back country roads. Hampton Inn – Lookout Mountain.  
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- **ASHEVILLE, NC** (2 nights): Tour the Biltmore, America's House built by the Vanderbilt's, Shopping and dining in quaint downtown Asheville, Touring day in the countryside, including driving "*The Rattler*", one of the five "top driving roads" on the Tour. The Restoration boutique hotel.  
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- **TAPOCO, NC** (1 night): Enjoy two "top five" roads (Hwy 276 and the Joyce Kilmer National Forest) and a section of the Blue Ridge Parkway on the way to Tapoco Lodge, a scenic riverside resort we will have all to ourselves. Get ready for tomorrow's big drive.  
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- **GATLINBURG, TN** (1 night): Get up early, we're doing the "*Tail of the Dragon*" (both ways!) before breakfast! No traffic. 318 curves in 11 miles. Then traverse the Great Smoky Mountains National Park over the Cumberland Gap and into touristy Gatlinburg. One of the best driving days of the Tour. The Bearskin Lodge.  
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- **LEXINGTON, KY** (3 nights): Daniel Boone National Forest enroute to Kentucky Blue Grass Country. Unbeatable driving roads without an interstate in sight. Three nights at the luxurious Origin Hotel. Horse Farms, Distilleries, Keeneland Racetrack tour, classic Antebellum architecture, two beautiful country drives.  
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- **BARDSTOWN, KY** (1 night): Travel Kentucky's Bourbon Trail with tours at Maker's Mark and Log Still distilleries. Lunch at a bucolic country restaurant. Overnight at the classic Bardstown Motor Lodge, all to ourselves.

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- **BOWLING GREEN, KY** (1 night): Mammoth Cave Tour (optional due to different tours available), ferry across the Green River, Duncan Hines Scenic Byway. Overnight in leafy Bowling Green, home of Western Kentucky University. Hilton Garden Inn.

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- **GREENVILLE, KY** (1 night): National Corvette Museum guided tour with optional side by side Corvette racing simulator. Authentic Catfish and Hushpuppies lunch. More serene backroads. And a very special "event" on tap when we arrive in Greenville (Cindi's hometown). Farewell Dinner and Party

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*Note that those not attending Conclave will depart the next morning, returning to Nashville to fly home (1:45 hours, 100 miles)*

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- **POPLAR BLUFF, MO** (1 night): On the road to Branson all day, but easy driving all the way. Cross the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Lunch at the infamous Lambert's Café in Sikeston (Home of the Throated Rolls). Overnight in Poplar Bluff, Gateway to the Ozarks. Dinner and breakfast included. Drury Inn.

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- **BRANSON, MO & CONCLAVE 2025** (5 nights): Today's drive through parts of the Mark Twain National Forest. BBQ Lunch at Hucklebucks in Seymour. Arrive at the fabulous Chateau on the Lake, headquarters of Conclave 2025. All your favorite Conclave activities, including Ozarks drives and a show at the Dolly Parton Theatre in Branson.

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- **RETURN HOME FROM SPRINGFIELD-BRANSON AIRPORT:** Served by American, United and Delta

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q.** How many cars on the Tour and how will I get my car to and from the Tour?

**A.** Cars will be shipped by Reliable Carriers (the big orange trucks), all enclosed transport. We are hoping to have four truckloads of seven cars each, one each from SF and San Diego, and two from LA (north and south). Plus, we will have a couple of Healeys driving all the way and a couple of BJ9s.

**Q.** What's it going to cost?

**A.** The total budget for the entire Tour and Conclave (per couple), including car shipping, airfare, 20 nights hotels, Conclave fees, many meals, and ALL the Tours and Adventures mentioned above (unless marked optional) is \$9500 from SF and \$9100 from LA/SD. Not included are many meals, drinks, gas and other personal expenses.

- Not shipping a car, deduct \$2900 to \$3400.

- Not attending Conclave, deduct \$1325.

- Singles are welcome and slightly lower

**Q.** When do I pay?

**A.** The tour registration fee, car shipping charges and some early hotel deposits will be invoiced in October (around \$3500). The balance will be invoiced, probably in two installments in February/March 2025. You will buy your own airline tickets and pay your own Conclave registration fee and hotel costs (but those costs are included in the budget above).

**Q.** What does the Registration Fee cover?

**A.** There is a \$200 per car registration fee. This covers many overhead items such as logo design, website design and maintenance, Regalia Store, postage, etc. plus the cost of your Tour Book, Turn-by-Turn Directions, Tour Rondel, and personalized Name Badge.

**Q.** How do we navigate the Tour Route?

**A.** The Tour Route is almost exclusively on rural roads and scenic parkways. Almost no Interstate highways. We travel in “flights” of six or seven cars, each with a flight leader. Each car is provided with printed Turn-by-Turn Directions as well as Garmin compatible map files that guide you every step of the way.

**Q.** Do we have long driving days?

**A.** No, we don’t do marathon drives. An average day might be 200 miles. Sometimes less. Typically, we start about 9am, drive an hour or so, stop for coffee and comfort, drive another hour, have lunch, drive another hour, take a break, and then another hour. We try to arrive at our hotels between 3 and 4 o’clock.

**Q.** Is it really that organized?

**A.** Yes, lunch stops, gas stops, coffee stops, tours and scenic stops are all planned and noted in your Turn-by-Turn directions. All included events and meals are prepaid. Hotels get a rooming list in advance to facilitate check-in. **However**, you are welcome to “freestyle” any time you like. See something you want to stop for, then do it. Want to sleep in, then do it. As long as you let your Flight Leader know, and show up at the next hotel, you are free to do as you please.

**Q.** Is this Tour for Healeys only?

**A.** While this is predominantly an Austin Healey Tour, other interesting cars are welcome, particularly British, but we have had Cobras, Porsches and other cars as well. The only limitation is size. Cars must be 14’ or less in length (due to trailer capacity). We will also have some in rental cars.

**Q.** What about Sprites?

**A.** This is a perfect Tour for Sprites. While there are a lot of mountain roads, they are not particularly high or steep. Average speed will be under 50 mph.

**Q.** Can we really pack for three weeks in a Healey?

**A.** Easily. The entire event is casual. Veterans of our Tours have perfected the art of maximizing luggage space and are happy to share their techniques. And many of our hotels have self-service laundries.

**Q.** What if I breakdown?

**A.** It happens all the time, though we highly encourage well-prepped cars. You will find that someone in the group will have almost any spare part you might need, and evening parking lot repairs are part of the fun! And we are not in the middle of nowhere (mostly), so roadside assistance is always available, and parts are just an overnight shipment away.

**Q.** What about dietary or accessibility issues?

**A.** Reasonable dietary accommodations will be made if we know in advance. For group meals there is always a Vegan option, but we cannot always accommodate all variations. All hotels have handicapped facilities, please let us know in advance and we will book you accordingly.

<i>Disclaimers (yes there are a few)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>First, this is a not-for-profit, for the love of classic cars Tour. No one is making any money. I pay what you pay. As such, you cannot expect "concierge" service. Yes, we are all friendly and helpful, but first and foremost, you must be responsible for yourself and your car.</i></li><li><i>Second, the Tour has no insurance, and you will be asked to sign a waiver of liability for any damage or injuries (or just inconvenience) you may incur.</i></li><li><i>Finally, the car shipping charges are based on full truckload rates (7 cars per truck). If fewer cars are shipped in a truck, the added cost per car will be prorated across ALL shipped cars on the tour. Every effort will be made to fill all trucks to capacity.</i></li></ul>



**Want More Information?**

Go to our website at [www.thesmokytour.com](http://www.thesmokytour.com) (be sure to click the

Itinerary Tab at the top

Or email me at [sackirby@pacbell.net](mailto:sackirby@pacbell.net)

Steve Kirby: Tour Director